

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSE:MHS

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

S/S - WHLUERS

EA:WHGLE TEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 268717

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANZUS, PFOR, AS, US, VS EGEN

SUBJECT: RENOUF'S CALL ON SISCO

1. AT END OF ANZUS OFFICIAL-LEVEL TALKS, DECEMBER 3, AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ALAN RENOUF PAID BRIEF CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO. RENOUF REPORTED THAT PM WHITLAM WAS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD, AN "HONEST GUY"; DESCRIBED GOA AS PREOCCUPIED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE PROSPECT OF ELECTIONS.

2. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RENOUF SAID THAT THE ONLY AREA OF  
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CONFLICT WITH US POLICY WAS LIKELY TO BE GOA POSITIONS ON PRG. HE IMPLIED THAT HE AND THE MFA WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY MOVE TOWARD RELATIONS WITH THE PRG; MFA WOULD SUGGEST

A PRG "INFORMATION OFFICE" IN SYDNEY AS A "FALL BACK POSITION". MR. SISCO SAID US FELT ANY ACTION THAT WOULD ENHANCE PRG PRESTIGE WOULD HURT PROSPECTS OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SVN.

3. RENOUF DESCRIBED ISSUE OF US DEFENSE-RELATED FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AS "DORMANT AT THE MOMENT", BUT SAID THAT IT COULD COME UP AT LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE. IF IT DID, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE OVERSHADOWED BY DEBATE ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, HOWEVER.

4. RENOUF SAID GOA HAD MADE "RADICAL CHANGE" IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN MINERALS; HE SAID GOALS HAD MOVED FROM "100 OWNERSHIP" TO "51 CONTROL" (WHICH HE SAID COULD INVOLVE ONLY 15 OWNERSHIP). CHANGE MADE DESPITE FUELS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR'S VIOLENT OPPOSITION. "CONNOR WANTS TO GO IT ALONE" IN THE RESOURCES FIELD, RENOUF SAID, HAD EVEN WANTED TO VETO THE IEP IN THE OECD.

5. CHANCE OF ELECTION NEXT YEAR RENOUF PUT AT 60, SAID "SHOULD NOT WORRY US EITHER WAY." ELECTION TODAY WOULD MEAN OVERWHELMING LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY VICTORY. VOTE WOULD BE "ANTI-ALP" NOT "ANTI WHITLAM" OR "PRO SNEDDEN". RENOUF CHARACTERIZED WHITLAM AS MAJOR FIGURE "IN IMAGE OF MENZIES" BUT UNINTERESTED IN ECONOMICS, SNEDDEN AS

"MEDIocre", SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK AS IMPRESSIVE, CAIRNS AS "NO ECONOMIST, ONLY AN ECONOMIC HISTORIAN."

6. REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION REPRESENTED AMPLIFICATION OF U.S. POSITION ON SALT AND MIDDLE EAST BY MR. SISCO IN RESPONSE TO RENOUF QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** lzenbel0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** lzenbel0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by lzenbel0>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by lzenbel0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RENOUF'S CALL ON SISCO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EGEN, AS, US, VS, ANZUS, (SISCO, JOSEPH J), (RENOUF, ALAN)  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005